*Mishpacha*

## My Experience at the 29th IAJGS Conference
## Philadelphia, August 2009
By Bill Yoffee < kidsbks@verizon.net >

My attendance at the 29th IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia opened a whole new avenue of genealogical investigation of my family, as I had hoped it would. It also stimulated my curiosity about Jewish mysticism.

My father's mother's family lived in South Philadelphia beginning some time in the 1890s, when they all moved from the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The household was headed by Abe SIMON who was married to my paternal grandmother's older sister, Dora (née BERNSTEIN). Originally, it also consisted of my grandmother, Bessie BERNSTEIN; her younger sister, Celia; some of the SIMON children; and my great-grandparents, Samuel and Sarah BERNSTEIN. Except for an occasional effort in the past, I have neglected a thorough investigation of that side of the family. I intended to begin to correct this during my stay in Philadelphia.

The comparison of the 1900, 1910, and 1920 Census records indicated that my great-grandfather, Samuel BERNSTEIN, died between 1900 and 1910, and that my great-grandmother, Sarah BERNSTEIN, who declared herself a widow in 1910, was not listed in 1920. My father who was named Samuel was born in August 1905. I assumed he was named after his deceased grandfather, according to Ashkenazi naming customs. Under the circumstances, I assumed, therefore, that Samuel BERNSTEIN died before my father's birth, but after the birth of his next older brother in July 1903. This guesswork seems to have paid off, but I still had some doubts.

Earlier this year, in anticipation of my attendance at the Conference, I made a trip to Philadelphia to visit the City Archives where death records up to 1915 are maintained[1]. Bingo! I found a record for a Samuel BERNSTEIN who died in May 1905. But the record indicated that he was a shoemaker (not a tailor, as he claimed), that he died at an address on Fairmount Avenue, nowhere near where my great-grandfather lived, and gave a home address that I had never heard of. Since his was a fairly common name, was this really my great-grandfather? Fortunately, his death certificate contained the name of the cemetery where he was buried. The cemetery, Har Jehuda[2], is still open and has fairly complete records on

# Officers

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## JGSGW Library opening hours

First Sunday of the month: 10:00 AM to Noon,
                                    by appointment only
Sunday, March 7 - 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Sunday, May 15 - 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM
Wednesdays - 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Thursdays - 1:00 to 3:00 PM, by appointment only

The Library will not be open during Jewish and secular holidays.
To request an appointment, contact the librarian
< elsadick@juno.com >
For current times, please see our website
< http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw >

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# משפחה

JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for possible publication in *Mishpacha*. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or publish in revised form. Submit articles to the editor:
   Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

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Special thanks to Liz Lourie & Fred Kolbrener

## The JGSGW Web Site is located at:
http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw

site. I called the cemetery from home, and they gave me the location of his grave. I was determined to visit the cemetery during the Conference.

On the second day of the Conference I drove out to Har Jehuda Cemetery which is in Upper Darby, a suburb. I found the grave with no trouble. His name and date of death were clearly legible on the matzeva, but the Hebrew script was barely legible. I tried to make it more readable using the shaving cream technique, but that didn't work so I took a number of photographs with an HD camera. I still wasn't sure this was the right guy, so I went to the office and asked to see the cemetery record. The secretary kindly made a photocopy for me. The record had the names of two people who had contributed to the care of the grave site. One was my great-aunt Celia and the other was her daughter Estelle. So he was the right guy after all, but that's not the end of the story.



Before I tell the rest, I must admit that I had no such luck in finding out about my great-grandmother, Sarah BERNSTEIN. There was no record of her death in the City Archives. The Philadelphia Regional Office of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vital Records referred me to the Pennsylvania Vital Records Bureau in New Castle, PA, where for a $34 fee I can commission a 10 year record search. None of the operating Funeral Directors had any record of her, and I was unable to get any information from the other cemeteries that operated in the era when she presumably died. As a consolation, however, thanks to the representatives of the Philadelphia Marriage License Bureau who were available on the first day at the Conference, I was able to obtain a copy of my grandparents' marriage certificate. They were married on March 8, 1900 by Rev S Solovechik. I assumed they had been married in Philadelphia because many years ago a relative gave me their original wedding portrait taken by the prominent society portrait photographer, Elias Goldensky (1867-1943), whose studio at that time was a block away from where the family lived on South 2nd Street.

When I returned home, after the Conference, I downloaded the photos of my great-grandfather's matzeva to my computer, but frankly, I was not too optimistic about being able to make out the Hebrew script. I was hoping against hope to find the name of his father which I could reasonably expect to appear as part of his Hebrew name. My first attempt, by printing an enlargement on premium high gloss photo paper, was unsuccessful. There were five letters, and the first two appeared to be *vav ayin*. The third looked like it was a *lamed*. The last two were too faint. What to do? The next day I decided to try printing the enlargement on premium matte photo paper. Thank heaven for HD photography. Eureka! The first letter was actually a *zayin*. The second and third

letters were indeed an *ayin* and a *lamed*. The fourth letter was a *yud*, but the fifth letter appeared to be a *nun*. So what does *zayin*, *ayin*, *lamed*, *yud*, *nun* spell? It should have been a final *nun* but wasn't.

I turned to my trusty copy of *Hamadrikh, the [Orthodox] Rabbi's Guide* which has an extensive list of Hebrew names for men and women. The last letter it turned out was a *gimel*. Hence, *zayin*, *ayin*, *lamed*, *yud*, *gimel* spelled Zelig, the name of my great-great-grandfather. But even this isn't the end of the story.

Trying to find a Zelig BERNSTEIN in the LitvakSIG Data Base[3] seemed like a hopeless task (assuming he was a Litvak). However, double Eureka! Zelig BERINSTEIN, of Panemune Marijampole Suwalki was listed on the 1842 Prenumeranten List for the publication of the book "Pardes ha-Binah"[4]. This reminded me that some years ago when I located the record of Samuel BERNSTEIN's naturalization papers, I noticed that his witness was Asher BERNSTEIN, also a tailor. When I found Asher's naturalization papers, I noted that he had indicated that he came from Marijampole. It seemed reasonable to as-sume that Asher was a relative and that they may have come from the same place. So now I had a strong presumption that this Zelig was Samuel's fa-ther. Not a certainty, but I like to believe that I had struck pay-dirt.

Panemune Marijampol Suwalki is a suburb across the river from Kaunas (Kovna) now known as Austoji Panemune (Upper Panemune). In the middle of the 19th Century, it was an estate where Jews could live when they were prohibited from living in nearby large towns. Between 1843 and 1845, when Zelig BERINSTEIN lived there, there were 231 Jewish households consisting of 1219 individuals. In 1868-69, there was a severe famine in Suwalki Gubernia, known as "the great hun-ger", and an outbreak of cholera. This is just when Samuel and Asher BERNSTEIN came to America, more than a decade before mass emigration from the Pale began. These events are said to have spurred emigration so that in the decade of the1870s the population declined to 100 Jewish families consisting of approximately 500 individuals.

Prenumeranten is a Yiddish term meaning "prior numbers". A Prenumeranten List refers to people who ordered a book before it was published. *Pardes ha-Binah* contains the sermons and re-sponsa (halachic rulings in response to a particular question submitted to a rabbi), written by Mosheh ben Aharon, sometimes referred to as Moses Aaronsohn, and was published in Amster-dam in 1842. The book appears in its entirety on the Internet in Hebrew print[5]. From the title: "Pardes" refers to four different approaches to interpretation of the text in Torah study; "Binah" means understanding or intelligence. It is a concept that is one of the ten Sephirot on the Tree of Life (see next page for an illustration) according to the Kabbala, the study of Jewish mysticism. Binah – understanding - is located atop the left pillar of the Tree of Life, which is generally seen as restrictive or constraining. It stands opposite Chochmah –wisdom- at the top of the right pillar. Combined, they lead to the hidden Sepira Da'at – knowledge. Not being a student of Kabbala, I still couldn't figure out what the book is all about from the title. Rabbi Jeff Marx cleared up the

Tree of Life
From the Kabbalah

1 Keter = Crown
3 Binah = Understanding or Intelligence
2 Chochma = Wisdom
Da'at = knowledge
5 Geburah = Severity/Power or Judgement or Fear
4 Chesed = Mercy/Grace or Greatness
6 Tifereth = Beauty Rachamim = Mercy
8 Hod = Glory or Majesty
7 Netsach = Victory or Constancy
9 Yesod =Foundation Tsedek = Justice
10 Malkut = Kingdom Shekhinah =Divine Immanence
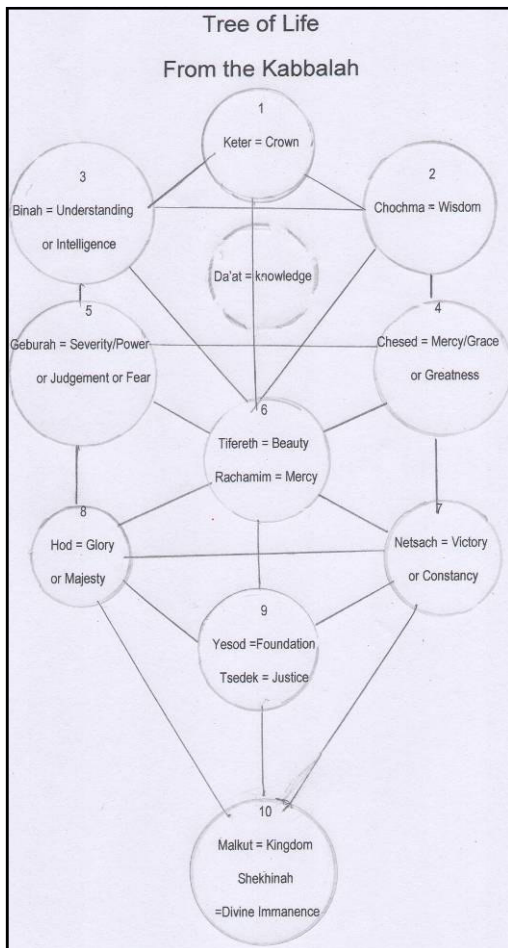
confusion in the LitvakSIG Digest[6]. I am still in a quandary as to whether Zelig BERINSTEIN BERINSTEIN was more interested in interpretation of the Torah or in Kabbala/ Jewish mysticism.

Foot Notes:

[1] The Philadelphia City Archives is located at 3100 Market Street, one block from Philadelphia's 30th Street Station. It also maintains early records of births, marriages, naturalizations, deeds, city directories, and other genealogical gems

[2] Har Jehuda Cemetery is located at 8400 Landsdown Avenue, Upper Darby PA, a western Philadelphia suburb

[3] The All Lithuanian Database can be found on the LitvakSIG homepage at http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak

[4] A number of articles referring to *Pardes ha-Binah* and the significance of a Prenumeranten List can be found by a Google search of "Pardes ha-Binah"

[5] See http://www.hebrewbooks.org/7202 which lists the Hebrew text on-line as the first entry in Hebrew.

[6] Rabbi Jeff Marx explained the confusion about the meaning of "Pardes ha-Binah" and the genealogical limitations of Prenumeranten Lists in an item in the LitvakSIG Digest, Thursday August 20, 2009. ✡

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With the holidays coming up and families getting together, a puzzle game might encourage children to get interested in the family tree.

The **Jigsaw Puzzle Lite** < http://www.kraisoft.com/puzzle-games/jigsaw/ > is great to make a puzzle of your family reunion photo or a family tree. Best of all, it's free.

This hand-drawn tree was made by Edmund J. Blau (1915-1988) in 1974, before his first trip to Hungary. He was a JGSGW past president and editor of *Mishpacha*, and my mother's 2nd and 3rd cousin!

(Submitted by Margarita Lackó, current *Mishpacha* editor.)
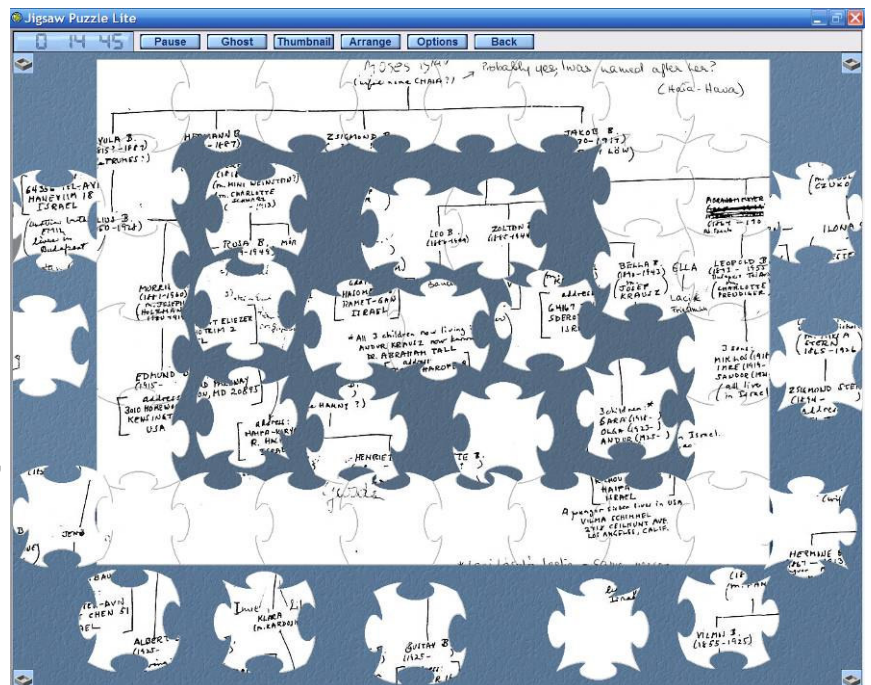
## Memories of Pocomoke City, Maryland
By Rita Margolis < ritamargolis@comcast.net >

(Ed. Note: Rita sent us an interesting article about Marc Scher and Barry Spinak from Pocomoke City, Maryland, and the closing of Congregation of Israel synagogue. Because of copyright issues, it can't be printed in Mishpacha. To read the article, titled "After 130 years, synagogue down to 1 member" by Brice Stump, published August 23, 2009, please go to < http://www.hometownannapolis.com/news/top/2009/08/23-04 >.)

My great grandparents, Benjamin Beinish and Ida Esther (KATZEN) KLAFF emigrated from Shavil, Lithuania, to the U.S. in 1885 and settled on the Eastern Shore in Pocomoke City, Maryland.

During the late 1800's and early 1900's ship building was the largest and most successful industry. Steam-driven boats and sailboats loaded with furs, whisky, and tobacco traveled from Pocomoke City to ports in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Here-say suggests that the KLAFF family may have rented the Henderson Farm in Unionville on the outskirts of Pocomoke City. My grandmother, Rosie KLAFF RASHINSKY, often spoke about living on "a farm" in Pocomoke. In 1910 the KLAFFs moved to Baltimore where there were more Jewish men for the daughters to marry.

In October of 1991, shortly before the KLAFF family reunion, my mother, Ann RASHINSKY KRAKOWER GOLDINER (Rosie's daughter) and I went to Pocomoke to trace our roots. We met Ruth Spinak, one of the few remaining Jews in Pocomoke, at City Hall and she gave us a Jewish history tour of the town pointing out the houses that the family lived in, the train station, the Pocomoke River pier, the genealogy section of the local library, the local newspaper office and archives, ending up at the synagogue mentioned in the above article. Mother and I spent the night in Snow Hill which is the county seat and did research at the court house the following day finding several records documenting the KLAFF family's stay in Pocomoke. I don't remember meeting the Scher family but Ruth did take us to Goodman's General Store in the center of town where we met Mr. & Mrs. Goodman as well as Mr. Goodman's mother, I believe. Ruth Spinak's husband died many years ago and she eventually moved to Northern Virginia to be near her daughter. Coincidently, Ruth called me a couple of weeks ago after she found a note I had written to her after my 1991 visit. We had a nice chat and plan to get together when she returns from a visit to her son Barry Spinak in Seattle where he recently moved. ✡

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We extend our deepest condolences to Rita and her family on the passing of her mother in September.

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## *Mishpacha* needs your stories!

     I would like to hear what YOU are interested in……

∗ Do you have a problem finding your ancestor in some database? Write your questions and we'll try to answer them.

∗ Did you find your ancestor in some database? Tell us what steps you followed so that others can learn.

∗ Did you find/meet an x-times removed cousin? Share your joy with us.

     Please participate in the continuing success of our newsletter by sending your comments, questions, findings or stories to me at < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

# IAJGS: From Philly to Skala

By Tony Hausner < thausner@gmail.com >

At the 29th IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia, several of our Skala Research Group met for dinner on Sunday evening and enjoyed getting to know each other better. Alex Woodle and I spent quite a bit of time together as we both have ECKSTEINs from the Czech Republic in our families.

Max Heffler, webmaster of the Skala shtetl < http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/SkalaPodol/ >, and I gave a progress report on our Skala Research Group to one of the Regional Research Groups. We discussed the translation project, Racheli's house number project, and gave an overview of the website. Max also covered data analysis of archival records he is leading from several towns in the Tarnopol region, such as Mel'nytsya-Podil's'ka (Mielnica).

During the Conference, I met Alex Denysenko. Alex has taken a number of people from Jewish-Gen on tours of eastern Galicia and comes highly recommended. His rates are fairly reasonable and my wife and I decided to arrange a tour of Skala and nearby communities for October 2010. Anyone with interest in going to Skala is welcome to join us. Alex will also be a very good resource if we are interested in having him research any of the data held at places like the Lviv archives. See Miriam Weiner's *Routes to Roots* website < http://rtrfoundation.org/ >. ✡

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Tony Hausner is the Shtetl leader of the Skala Research Group and is researching the following families: HAUSNER: Skala, Galicia; Austria, Moravia. WECHSLER, ZIMMERMAN: Galicia. BLOCH, ECKSTEIN: Czech Republic

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## Surfing The Net

Here is a guide on **How to Cite Internet Sources** < http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/cite.html >. An updated version can be found at < http://www.h-net.org/~africa/citation.html >. And don't forget to always cite the date you accessed the information.

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According to the Hungarian Central Office for Administrative and Electronic Public Services, the **most common surnames in Hungary** are Nagy, Kovács, Tóth, Szabó and Horváth followed by Varga, Kiss and Molnár. See the complete list at < http://www.nyilvantarto.hu/kekkh/fixhtml/nepessegfuzet/13/f-csalad.html >. In Behind the Name < http://surnames.behindthename.com/origin.php > you will find the meaning and history of many of these surnames. It might give you a clue of where your ancestor came from, what might have been his profession, what might his complexion have been, etc. Behind the Name has also German, Spanish, Jewish and Dutch surname lists among others.

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Did you know that **Donát Bánki** (1859-1922), a Hungarian mechanical engineer, invented the carburetor? **Michael Kovats de Fabricy** (1724-1779), a young hussar, was the earliest recorded Hungarian in North America. **Tivadar Puskás** (1844-1893), a Hungarian inventor, created the telephone exchange together with **Thomas Alva Edison**. These and other tidbits can be read in *A Hungarian Ramble Through New York* < http://extremelyhungary.org/ramble/ >

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**Wired New York** < http://tinyurl.com/ygh9r5d > has an excellent compilation of vintage photos of New York City dating back to the late 19th century. Expect to find an uncommon blend of artistic photography, traditional snapshots and historical perspective. From "Venturing Into Our Past", JGS of Conejo Valley and Ventura County, Nov. 2009.

# Are Ádám FISCHER and Klára HEBER
# my grandmother's grandparents?

By Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >

My grandmother was Kornélia FISCHER. At the Jewish Community Center in Budapest, Hungary, I obtained her marriage record from 1924. It stated that she was born in 1895 in Gyöngyös and her Hebrew name was Gitl bat Menahem (Hebrew abreviation *hei, mem*) Mendel Halevi. It also says that she was the daughter of Márton FISCHER (deceased) and Fány HANNOVER.



**Kornélia FISCHER's Hebrew name from her marriage record**

At a Family History Center, I ordered the microfilm from Gyöngyös that would include births for 1895. In it, I found her birth record. She was born 09 Jan 1895 in Gyöngyös, Hungary, and her parents, my great-grandparents, were indeed Márton FISCHER (born in Gyöngyösoroszi, Hungary) and Fáni HANOFER (born in Tura, Hungary). So far, so good.



**Birth record of Kornélia FISCHER**

Using these facts I wanted to see if I could learn more about my great-great-grandparents. To do this I needed to find Márton FISCHER's birth and marriage records.

After ordering all the microfilms from Gyöngyös at a Family History Center, I searched for his marriage record, going backwards from 1895, but could not find it. However, I did find a birth record for *a* Márton FISCHER, born December 1844. His parents were Ádám FISCHER and Klára HEBER, living in Gyöngyösoroszi. Was this Márton my great-grandfather? There was a note indicating that the entry was made on 5 May 1891. This generally means that the birth was not recorded when it occurred and that the person needed an official birth record for some official purpose, generally, a marriage.



**Belated birth record of Márton FISCHER**

Because I didn't find Márton's marriage in the Gyöngyös registers, I next ordered the microfilm with vital records from Tura since Márton's wife, Fáni HANOFER/HANNOVER, was born there. However, I was disappointed when I looked through it. It seemed to have only Roman Catholic vital records. I did some more research and learned, according to the *1877 Dvorzsák Gazetteer*, that Jews from Tura worshiped in the nearby town of Aszód. So I ordered the Aszód microfilm and Bingo! I found it!

On 26 May 1891, Márton FISCHER (age 46, single) and Fáni HANNOFER (age 39, single) were married in Tura. The groom's parents were Adam FISCHER & Klara HÉBER from Gyöngyös.



**Marriage record of Márton FISCHER and Fáni HANNOFER**

While reviewing the Gyöngyös microfilms, I transcribed all the entries that had a FISCHER, HANNOVER, HANOFER or HEBER, be it in a birth, marriage, death, witness, etc. entry. Putting this information in a table allowed me to see that the couple Adam FISCHER and Klára HEBER had at least five children (not including Márton). The earliest record I found was the birth of their daughter Resy in 1851. They had a child about every year or two, until 1858. Since there was a gap of about seven years between Márton's birth (1844) and Resy's birth, I could not be sure that this couple is the same as Márton FISCHER's parents. Therefore, I did not feel confident enough to merge these records into my tree.

A few years later, I found my great-grandfather Márton's tombstone in the Gyöngyös cemetery. (See the Summer 2009 issue of *Mishpacha* for a description of the cemetery and tombstone.) The inscription indicates that Márton (Mendel Hirsch) FISCHER died on 19 September 1904 at age 54. He was the son of Aharon Schmuel and Gitl.

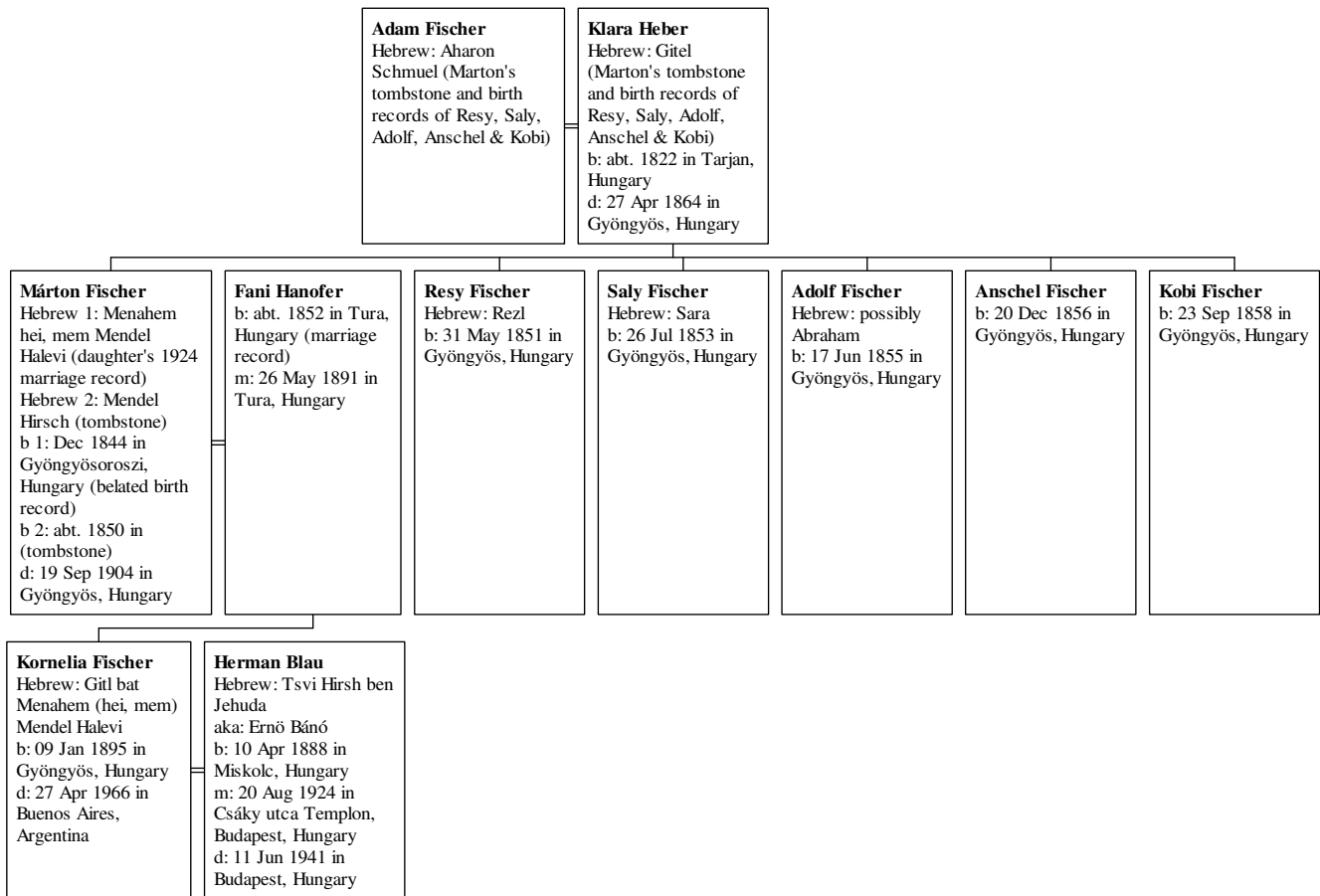Trying to put it all together, I still noticed a few discrepancies, one astonishing fact, and a clue.

> ➢ If Márton died at age 54 in 1904, he would have been born in 1850. But his belated birth record indicates he was born in 1844. I have proof that the tombstone I found is the correct one. Could the age on the tombstone be wrong? Or could the age on the birth record be wrong?

➤ Can I assume that Aharon Schmuel (Márton's father mentioned in his tombstone) is the same as Ádám (Márton's father mentioned in his marriage record)?

➤ Is Mendel Hirsch (Márton's Hebrew name mentioned in his tombstone) the same person as Menahem Mendel (Kornélia's father mentioned in her marriage record)?

➤ Fáni HANNOFER was 39 years old and single when she married Márton in 1891. Their only daughter, Kornélia, was born in 1895. Fáni would have been 42 years old! Although not impossible, it's somewhat unusual for a woman to give birth to her first child at this age.

➤ The Hebrew name of Kornélia is the same as Márton's mother. Both are Gitl.

Can I merge Ádám FISCHER and Klára HEBER and their children into my family tree? Yes, I can! And it is thanks to whoever gave the information for the inscription on Márton's tombstone! Why? Because all the birth records of the five children born to Ádám FISCHER and Klára HEBER also have their parents' Hebrew names: Aharon Schmuel and Gitl.

## Descendants of Ádám Fischer (partial tree)

**Adam Fischer**
Hebrew: Aharon Schmuel (Marton's tombstone and birth records of Resy, Saly, Adolf, Anschel & Kobi)

**Klara Heber**
Hebrew: Gitel (Marton's tombstone and birth records of Resy, Saly, Adolf, Anschel & Kobi)
b: abt. 1822 in Tarjan, Hungary
d: 27 Apr 1864 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Márton Fischer**
Hebrew 1: Menahem hei, mem Mendel Halevi (daughter's 1924 marriage record)
Hebrew 2: Mendel Hirsch (tombstone)
b 1: Dec 1844 in Gyöngyösoroszi, Hungary (belated birth record)
b 2: abt. 1850 in (tombstone)
d: 19 Sep 1904 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Fani Hanofer**
b: abt. 1852 in Tura, Hungary (marriage record)
m: 26 May 1891 in Tura, Hungary

**Resy Fischer**
Hebrew: Rezl
b: 31 May 1851 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Saly Fischer**
Hebrew: Sara
b: 26 Jul 1853 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Adolf Fischer**
Hebrew: possibly Abraham
b: 17 Jun 1855 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Anschel Fischer**
b: 20 Dec 1856 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Kobi Fischer**
b: 23 Sep 1858 in Gyöngyös, Hungary

**Kornelia Fischer**
Hebrew: Gitl bat Menahem (hei, mem) Mendel Halevi
b: 09 Jan 1895 in Gyöngyös, Hungary
d: 27 Apr 1966 in Buenos Aires, Argentina

**Herman Blau**
Hebrew: Tsvi Hirsh ben Jehuda
aka: Ernö Bánó
b: 10 Apr 1888 in Miskolc, Hungary
m: 20 Aug 1924 in Csáky utca Templon, Budapest, Hungary
d: 11 Jun 1941 in Budapest, Hungary

# A Holocaust Geographic "How to" for Genealogists

By Peter Landé < pdlande@starpower.net >

(Note: this article was first submitted to *Mishpacha*. Please use this as the source. Thank you.)

Genealogists searching for Holocaust information are accustomed to searching databases for family names of interest. They consult data provided by the many genealogical Special Interest Groups such as JRI Poland, and of course, they may also search libraries for locality specific sources such as Yizkor books or general histories of a community. They can utilize useful online sources such as Footnote.com, Ancestry.com, etc. However, with the exception of JewishGen's Holocaust Database < http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/ >, which can be searched by town, none focus solely on Holocaust data.

What I find, however, is that few researchers are aware of three major geographic online Holocaust focused sources, which, in themselves, do not yield family names, but rather lead the researcher to extremely valuable sources of information.

I refer to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum's (USHMM) Name List Catalog, Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database and the International Tracing Service's (ITS) Inventory Search or "Inventar". Each is described below.

**USHMM Name List Catalog**: This is the Holocaust Museum's ongoing attempt to identify and describe all sources of information containing Holocaust related name lists, whether in book, memoir, archival file, internet resource or any other format, even if the resource is not held at the Museum. To reach this Catalog, go to < http://www.ushmm.org/ >, then "Research", then "Survivors Registry", then "Research Tools", or go to < http://resources.ushmm.org/Holocaust-Names/List-Catalog/search >. This will bring you to Holocaust Name Lists Catalog Search. You can search by country, or even by name of author of relevant books, though I would not recommend either since such searches would be too broad. If you enter the name of a town and click the box just below the search field you will get information regardless of how the locality was filed, e.g. Kovno, Kaunas, Kovne or Kauen. To take another example, if you type in Warsaw you will get 322 entries, Warschau 30 entries, and Warszawa 585 entries, but if you check the box you will be able to identify all the sources of information, regardless of spelling.

What you will NOT find are names themselves. What you will find is a notation by each entry such as NL = Name List, which indicates that the names in that source are included in the Museum's Name Search Catalog, CC = (Claims Conference) which means that the source was identified by Claims Conference restitution claims researchers or YV which means that the list is held at Yad Vashem. The extent of the information on each source varies considerably, but, while all identify sources of information on names, none includes the name lists themselves. The Survivors Registry at the USHMM welcomes additions/corrections/comments to the information contained in this source.

While not directly relevant, it may be useful to clarify Name Search at the USHMM. This is similar but also very different from the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem. It includes both victims and survivors and Jews and non-Jews. While there are currently 5,967,092 name entries taken from 378 different sources in this database, this figure is misleading, since an individual's name may appear in several documents and there is no attempt to link the listings. Therefore, there is no way of knowing how many persons are identified in this database. Finally, and unfortunately, unlike the Hall of Names, the USHMM public version of Name Search, which you can access at < http://www.ushmm.org/namesearch/ >, contains only a tenth of the number of names

contained in the version used at the museum to answer inquiries. This is true since, in many cases, the providers/institutions from which the bulk of the information came insist that it not be made available on the web.

**Yad Vashem**: To reach Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database simply go to < http://www.yadvashem.org/ > and near the bottom of the page you will see Shoah-Related Lists Database. Alternatively, you can go directly there by going to < http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/listoflists >. Somewhat different from the USHMM list, the material is organized by the current name of the locality, but you will get there even if you type in the old name, e.g. Breslau will take you to Wroclaw. Whether you type in Nürnberg, Nuremberg or Nuernberg you will end up with the same information. As is the case with the USHMM finding aid, one can search by name of camp, e.g. Flossenbürg. There is provision to comment on/add to existing listings.

As is the case with USHMM, Yad Vashem includes references both to its own holdings and those of other institutions. Yad Vashem offers a unique advantage in that in many cases when one clicks a document reference the actual text appears. As is the case for the USHMM, the fact that a document/source has been identified does not mean that any or all of the names in the relevant documents have been added to the Hall of Names/Name Search. There is also a significant difference in that the Hall of Names is intended to identify Jews who perished in the Holocaust, while Name Search lists all those who perished or survived, regardless of religion. The Yad Vashem approach has the disadvantage that if a list/individual listing does not indicate religion, the names are not included.

**International Tracing Service (ITS) Inventar**: ITS holdings of documents are undoubtedly larger than those of the USHMM or Yad Vashem and the number of unique persons identified in the documents held there are far more numerous. The ITS estimates that it has roughly 50 million name citations, identifying about 17 million persons, Jews and non-Jews, survivors and victims. For reasons which would take too long to describe here, one can generalize that the collection is rich in Western European and postwar documents, but weak in Eastern European holdings.

The Inventar (inventory or finding aid) is much less useful than those of either the USHMM or Yad Vashem. The purpose of the ITS throughout its history was never to collect the history of the Holocaust but rather to identify the fate of all those who had perished or survived. As a result, the ITS until recently did not have a historian or archivist, but rather simply collected documents in order to extract the names which appeared in them. Accordingly, the description of the documents was primitive. In addition to its home location in Bad Arolsen, Germany, copies of this massive collection are being shared with the USHMM, Yad Vashem, the Institute of National Memory in Warsaw, the National Archives of Belgium and the Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Résistance in Luxembourg. The transfer process is gradual and may not be completed until 2011.

The Inventar is available on the web either through the ITS website < http://www.its-arolsen.org/ > or through the USHMM at < http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory/home.php >. Originally in German, thanks to the efforts of the USHMM, it is now also available in English. A fundamental difference exists when entering location searches in the Inventar. When one types in the name of a locality (not possible on a country level) all Inventar descriptions where that place name has been entered appear. There is no linkage between different spellings of a town's name so that, for example, there are 237 "hits" for Warsaw and 429 for Warschau, and 75 "hits" for Cologne and 104 for Köln and no way to meld these different sources. Moreover, if a place name appears any-

where in the description; i.e. if a book about Warsaw was published in or was acquired from Berlin, it is indexed under both place names. The information in each citation is limited, usually consisting of a very brief description, the number of pages in the document and number of names which are included. There is, of course, also a reference citation but no visible link to the document itself. The names which were extracted from these sources have been collected in various databases such as the Central Names Index but, at this time, neither the documents nor the names are available on the web. (Speaking from personal experience I must stress that these databases are extremely complex, or even convoluted, and locating an individual name often requires expert help.) If one finds any citation which might be of interest, one would have to visit one of the institutions where the material is held or write to these institutions and request copies, without knowing whether they are of real interest.

Unfortunately, there has been considerable confusion as to the "rules" governing access to ITS material. Under the international agreement which "opened" ITS and made copies available to a single institution in each member country, there are neither restrictions on third party access to ITS documents at these institutions nor limitations on how a researcher may utilize copies of such material he/she has acquired.

Finally, the above is not an attempt to rank the three sources. Each has its own advantages and disadvantages and a patient researcher should examine all three. It is my hope that the above information will prove useful for all researchers. ✡

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## Auschwitz tattoo numbers photography project

There is no official document that identifies the people who were subjected to having these numbers tattooed on their arms. Please help us assemble information about as many people as we can reach.

Please contact:
Gabriella Y. Karin
c/o Los Angeles Museum of Holocaust
6435 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90048
Telephone: 323-934-7987
E-mail: auschwitznumbers@earthlink.net



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### Jewish Burials at Arlington National Cemetery

To submit additional names of persons buried at the cemetery, please visit the *JGSGW Arlington Cemetery* website at < http://www.cygnet.org/anc2008/ > and use the forms available from the "Contact Us" page.

If you would like to volunteer taking photos or updating the data, please contact Marlene Bishow, Project Chair, < mlbishow@comcast.net >

# Information about Veterans of the U.S. Navy
## And Other U.S. Sea Services

By Leonard Lobred < derbol@his.com >

I compiled a list of government and non-government sources in the Greater Washington area that may be useful to genealogists seeking information about veterans of the U.S. Navy and other U.S. sea services:

(1) Unofficial personnel records:

The U.S. Navy Memorial and Heritage Center contains a Memorial Log in which more than 600,000 veterans of the U.S. Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and wartime Merchant Marine have registered. The information for each veteran includes his or her name, date and place of birth, rank, dates of service, duty stations, and awards in whatever detail the individual submitted. Many entries include photographs.

The information submitted by each registrant is computerized and may be seen by visitors to the Heritage Center without charge. A print-out of a veteran's log entry includes the photograph of the individual, if one was submitted, in addition to his or her record of service. The Heritage Center charges $10 for each print-out, with or without a photo.

Veterans may be entered in the database in person or by mail with a $25 contribution. Veterans may use the Memorial Log as a way of finding each other.

The U.S. Navy Memorial and Heritage Center is at 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004, tel. 202-737-2300.

(2) The Armed Guard

The main records of the U.S. Navy uniformed personnel who during World War II served as armed guards on Merchant Marine vessels are in the Modern Military Records Branch, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740, tel. 301-837-3510. The records include the ports of call, dates of the visit, and, if the ship sailed in a convoy, the convoy designation.

(3) Photographs of U.S. Navy ships:

Photographs of U.S. Navy ships are obtainable at the Photographic Section, Still Pictures Branch, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, tel. 301-837-3510; the Photographic Section of The Naval Historical Center, in the Washington Navy Yard, 6th and M Sts. SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060, tel. 202-443-2765; the U.S. Navy Memorial and Heritage Center, 701 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20004, tel. 202-737-2300; and the U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, MD 21402.

(4) Military service ribbons:

Information about military service medals and ribbons is obtainable at the Curator Branch of The Naval Historical Center, in the Washington Navy Yard, 6th and M Sts. SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060, tel. 202-443-2318, and online at
< http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/Awards/Ribbons/OrderofPrecedence.htm >

(5) Online compilations about U.S. Navy ships:

At < http://www.history.navy.mil/branches/nhcorg9.htm > is a list of online compilations by The Naval Heritage Center. They include a "Dictionary of American Fighting Ships" containing information about fighting ships on which individuals served during wartime, a list of ships at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, and a list of ships present during the surrender ceremony in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2, 1945. The Naval Historical Center is in the Washington Navy Yard, 6th and M Sts. SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060.

(6) U.S. Navy ships' deck logs:

Deck logs of commissioned U.S. Navy ships from the earliest times through 1940 are in the Old Military and Civil Branch, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20408, tel. 202-501-5385. Deck logs from 1941 through those that are 30 years old or older are in the Modern Military Records Branch, NARA, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001, tel. 301-837-3510. These logs are open for research. Requests for research appointments and inquiries concerning log information, should be addressed to the NARA office holding logs from the time period of interest.

Deck logs are primarily a record of a ship's location and movement, and do not contain personnel information.

Deck logs that are less than 30 years old are classified and are under the control of the Ships Deck Log Section, Naval Historical Center, in the Washington Navy Yard, 6th and M Sts. SE, Washington, DC 20374-5060. A request on behalf of a veteran received directly from an office of the Department of Veterans Affairs is given special attention. Other requests are treated as Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.

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U.S. Army and Air Force: Other than information that may be available at NARA, there are no comparable sources of information in the Greater Washington area about veterans of the other U.S. military services. A "National Museum of the United States Army" is planned at Fort Belvoir, VA. Ground-breaking is scheduled in 2010 and the museum is scheduled to open in 2013. The Air Force Museum is in Ohio. ✡



# 30th IAJGS
# International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, California, U.S.A.
11-16 July 2010
JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. LIVE

< http://www.jgsla2010.com/ >

# Society News

## PATRONS

Lois Hechinger England

Ruth W. Hurwitz

Harvey Kabaker

Stephen Rockower

Evelyn R. Saile

Julia Tossell

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Sherri Finkel

Rand & Julie Fishbein

Sam and N. R. Girson

Stephen E. Loeb

Hella Reitman

Susan and Bruce Turnbull

## LIBRARY FUND

Mike Getz

Alan Hirshfeld

Victor Miller

Deborah Pomerance

# SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

There are a number of opportunities currently available to make your JGSGW perform more effectively. Here is a list for your consideration:

- ➢ **Treasurer** (QuickBooks experience preferred)
- ➢ **Assistant Treasurer** (Excel experience preferred)
- ➢ *Mishpacha* editor and assistant editor
- ➢ Chair and members of a **Publicity Committee**
- ➢ **Program** committee members
- ➢ **Recording Secretary**

# The President's Perspective

As we approach the midpoint of our 2009-2010 year, I am reflecting on what a wonderful family we have as members of the Jewish genealogy community. Earlier this year, after the 2009 IAJGS Philadelphia conference, I was successful in discovering and then connecting with a new branch of my LAN (LANE) family from Lithuania --> New York and Pennsylvania. I was successful because of the generous help provided by many members of JewishGen and LitvakSIG, and the encouragement of fellow members of JGSGW who have provided me with guidance over the years as I have developed my skills in locating and connecting with my relatives.

It would be wonderful if we could expand our family by inviting friends, acquaintances, and family members to meetings and other Society events. We could also provide information to our synagogues, auxiliaries, and other Jewish organizations about our JGSGW programs, and publicize our events on calendars and in announcements of Society events.

We thrive on new members who bring to the Society fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We would all benefit by bringing in new members who might provide the key to furthering our next family research breakthrough.

There are many opportunities to help. We are actively recruiting for a new Treasurer (QuickBooks experience preferred), an assistant Treasurer (Excel experience preferred), a Mishpacha editor, an assistant editor, the Chair and members of a Publicity Committee, Program committee members, and a Recording Secretary. These positions require only a few hours of your time, but contribute so much in value to our membership. We are always looking for new ideas on how to reach out to the larger community and attract new members. If you have ideas, or better yet, care to take on this challenge by volunteering for one of the openings, please contact me at < jgsgw_dc@comcast.net >.

We all gain by sharing our experience with our fellow members, and learn from others through our involvement and participation in the programs of our Society. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Society event, and to hearing from you about your concerns and interests.

Yours in friendship,

*Jeff Miller*
President

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Johanna Marshall reviewed the book "**Doctors From Hell**" by Vivien Spitz in the Spring 2009 issue of Mishpacha. Johanna now informs us that there are several clips of Vivien Spitz on You-Tube talking about her experiences reporting the medical cases at the Nuremburg trials. If you search on Google < http://www.google.com/ > for "YouTube Vivien Spitz", it will come up.
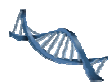
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Marvin Turkanis brought to our attention an article published by the Smithsonian Magazine, titled "**Jewish Bluegrass**" *Lovers of the banjo, fiddle and mandolin blend cultural identity and religious faith to create a uniquely American sound. "Jewgrass" is the fusion of bluegrass music with Hebrew lyrics and is played by a diverse group of old-time and bluegrass musicians.*
< http://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/Jewish-Bluegrass.html?c=y&page=1 >

# Announcements

The following was submitted by **Gene Sadick** who has responsibilities for the JGSGW DNA Program and the JGSGW Library. He can be reached at (301-434-8561) or < elsadick@juno.com >.

## JGSGW DNA E-MAIL ASSISTANCE

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) website has a link to FamilyTreeDNA for members who wish to have their DNA tested. However, many people who are not JGSGW members use this link to sign up for DNA testing. Non-members are not eligible to use the JGSGW discounted fee.

It has become time consuming to write e-mails to these non-members to inform them that they need to resubmit their requests to another DNA Group at FamilyTreeDNA.

Therefore, I am seeking some volunteers to assist me in sending a stock answer to each of the non-members.

## JGSGW LIBRARY

B'nai Israel has recently installed 12 new desktop computers in the Chod Media Center. JGSGW members can now use these computers for research on the Internet. For members who have not yet learned how to use a computer for research, our Library team is available to help you. Please call to let us know when you are coming.

The Library is also in need of assistants to provide library services on days when we are open. Please call if interested.


## JGSGW Library News -  Winter 2009
Updated by Vera Finberg, Assistant Librarian < vera.finberg@verizon.net >

**2009 IAJGS Conference DVD** is now in the library. This DVD includes all the recorded presentations from the Conference and the syllabus handouts when available. The DVD permits MP3 downloads of individual sessions. It can be heard and downloaded in the JGSGW library on the newly installed B'nai Israel computers.

**Newly Added JGSGW meetings:**

JGSGW Program, April 19, 2009.
Constance Potter: "It's Called Research Not Data Retrieval: Searching for Records Online and Off." CD 20

JGSGW Program, March 15, 2009.
Dr. Louis Blumen: "Jewish Medicine in Medieval Times." CD 21

JGSGW Program, January 25, 2009
Dr. Edmund C. Tramont: "The Plague and Genetics" and "Influenza Pandemic of 1917-1918." CD 22

**Newly Added books:**

Armoza, Harriet Feinmark, *A Select History of Jacob Armoza's Family*. [English and Hebrew] CS71 .A53

Gutstein, Morris A., *Story of the Jews of Newport: Two and a Half Centuries of Judaism, 1658-1908*, Introduction by David Da Sola Pool, New York, Bloch Publishing, 1936. F89 .N5 G9

Marcus, Jacob Rader, *American Jewry; Documents of the Eighteenth Century*, Cincinnati, Hebrew Union College Press, 1959. E184 .J5 M2 1959.

Markens, Isaac, *Hebrews in America*, New York, Published by the author, 1888. E184 .J5 M3

Meyers, Allen, The *Jewish Community of South Philadelphia*. F158.9 .J5 M49 1998

## UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS

Non-members/Visitors are welcome to attend programs for a $5.00 fee. If a guest joins the Society the fee will be applied toward the membership dues. Workshops are open to JGSGW members only. Non-members may join on the day of the workshop unless advance registration is required.

**NEW** Non-members may attend one meeting a year for free! Go to our website to print the certificate.

### December
Date:       Sunday, December 13, 2009
Time:       1:30 PM Business meeting; 2:00 PM Program
Location:   Beth-El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA
Program:    Joint program with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (JHSGW)
            Professor **Anne Rubin**, a widely recognized expert on the Civil War, will speak on "Father Abraham and the Children of Israel: Lincoln and American Jews"
The Historical Society's important exhibit on the Jews of DC during the Civil War will be on display at Beth El. From 12:15 PM to 1:30 PM there will be guided tours of the exhibit.

### February
Date:       Wednesday, February 7, 2010
Time:       8:00 PM
Location:   Tikvat Israel Synagogue, library
Program:    Ron Arons; "Mapping Madness!"

### June
Date:       Sunday, June 6, 2010
Location:   Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 Macarthur Blvd, Cabin John, MD 20818
Program:    **Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon - Members only**

For up-to-date information, please visits our website < http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw >

## 2009-2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

December 13, 2009 - Beth El, Alexandria, VA
January 10, 2010 - Beth El, Bethesda, MD
February 7, 2010 - Adas Israel, Washington, DC
March 7, 2010 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD
April 18, 2010 - Beth El, Alexandria, VA
May 16, 2010 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD
June 6, 2010 - Clara Barton Community Center, Cabin John, MD

Please see our website for updates
< http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw >

The Jewish Genealogy Society
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PO Box 1614
Rockville, MD 20849-1614

**First Class Mail**